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ABSTRACT

This annotated bibliography covers resources pertaining to Christopher Columbus, the European Age of Exploration, native civilizations in the Americas, and changing views of Columbus' role in history. The materials are organized by intended audience into the following sections: grades preK-3, grades 4-8, grade 9-12, and professional. Most of these materials have potential for interdisciplinary use through interweaving of social studies and geography, language arts, science, and the arts. The publishers and producers from whom the listed materials can be purchased are listed in a directory. (DB)

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COLUMBUS

1492 Rediscovery 1992

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ADVISORY List

INSTRUCTIONAL MEDIA

COLUMBUS

1492 ◆ *Rediscovery* ◆ 1992

LINKING RESOURCES WITH NORTH CAROLINA CURRICULUM • MAY 1992

This advisory list highlights new resources pertaining to Christopher Columbus, the European Age of Exploration, native civilizations in the Americas, and changing views of Columbus's role in history. Most of these materials have outstanding potential for interdisciplinary use through interweaving of social studies and geography, language arts, science, and the arts. Many also address multicultural issues and foster critical inquiry about cultural perspectives and the making of history. Sure to be especially timely in this quincentennial year, these titles will continue to enhance classroom instruction and media center collections after 1992.

GRADES PreK-3

Books

Fritz, Jean. *The Great Adventure of Christopher Columbus. (A Pop-up Book)* Illustrated by Tomie dePaola. unp. $15.95. Putnam, 1992. (ISBN 0-399-22113-1) Grades 1-4. Grades 1-3: CG 7. Grade 4: CG 11 and 12

Characterized by Fritz's lively, humorous prose and dePaola's distinctive artistic style, this delightful pop-up book tells the story of Columbus's first voyage entirely from his point of view. Text for each two-page spread appears on a flyleaf that is opened for reading so that it does not detract from the fine illustrations in rich, warm colors. Weaknesses include the book's lack of durability and its limited mention of the native peoples Columbus encounters. However, especially as a supplemental read-aloud for lower grades, this book provides a sprightly, visually appealing introduction to Columbus.

Krensky, Stephen. *Christopher Columbus. (Step into Reading Series)* Illustrated by Norman Green. 48 p. $6.99. Random, 1991. (ISBN 0-679-90369-0) Grades 1-3. Grades 1-3: CG 7

Using a simple, very limited vocabulary, this easy to read biography tells the story of Christopher Columbus's first voyage in a lively and interesting way. Heavily illustrated with pleasant, full-color pictures which complement the narrative, the book is a good choice for beginning and newly independent readers.

Liestman, Vicki. *Columbus Day. (On My Own Series)* Illustrated by Rick Hanson. 56 p. $9.95. Carolrhoda Bks., 1991. (ISBN 0-87614-444-X) Grades K-5. Grades K-3: CG 7. Grades 4 and 5: CG 11 and 12

Both the good and the bad aspects of exploration and discovery are presented in this explanation of the history of Columbus Day and its significance. The straightforward, accessible text supports a revisionist view of Columbus and emphasizes the establishment of lasting connections between different cultures. Especially useful for enriching the curriculum, identifying people associated with American heritage, and evaluating the effects of change on people's lives.

Marzollo, Jean. *In 1492.* Illustrated by Steve Bjorkman. unp. $13.95. Scholastic Inc., 1991. (ISBN 0-590-44413-1) Grades K-3. Grades K-3: CG 7

Beautifully enhanced by Steve Bjorkman's delightful pastel watercolors, this picture book tells the story of Columbus's first voyage in rhymed couplets. Beginning with the familiar "In fourteen hundred ninety-two/Columbus sailed the ocean blue," Marzollo's charming verses add humor to historical fact ("Ninety sailors were on board/Some men worked while others snored."). Although this book stresses the positive aspects of Columbus's achievements, it does include a contemporary assessment in the line "The first American? No, not quite." A one-page biography provides background information for young readers and listeners. An excellent read-aloud. **ID**

Maestro, Betsy and Giulio. *The Discovery of the Americas.* Illustrated by Giulio Maestro. 48p. $14.88 (ISBN 0-688-06838-3). Activities book 43 p. $7.95 paper (ISBN 0-688-08590-3). Lothrop, 1991,1992. Grades 2-6. Grades 2 and 3: CG 7. Grades 4 and 5: CG 11 and 12. Grade 6: CG 12

Both *The Discovery of the Americas* and its companion activity book are carefully designed, attractive texts featuring large, colorful illustrations and

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solid information which reviews American history from early Stone Age Indian migration through the voyages of Magellan. Excellent detailed maps trace land and sea routes of explorers (e.g., Cabot, Marco Polo, da Gama) as well as native migration and early contacts between the Old and New Worlds. *Discovery*'s concluding section contains a chronology, description of early peoples, and information on the Age of Discovery, other interesting voyages, and how America got its name. The individual and small group projects in the activity book are cross-curricular and marked according to three levels of difficulty (easy, moderate, complex). Very useful resources for teaching ideas and reports. (1992 ALA Notable Book) **ID**

Sis, Peter. *Follow the Dream: The Story of Christopher Columbus*. Illustrated by the author. unp. $15.99. Knopf, 1991. (ISBN 0-679-90628-2) Grades 1-3. Grades 1-3: CG 7

Recalling the maps and frescoes of fifteenth-century Europe, Sis's intricate illustrations are the real storyteller in this chronicle of how Columbus overcame many obstacles before making his historic voyage in 1492. Brief text supplements the striking paintings in ink, watercolor, oil, and gouache. The text focuses on Columbus's dream of discovering a seaway to the Orient. Teachers may wish to use this book for an integrated study of history, geography, and art. **ID**

Smith, Barry. *The First Voyage of Christopher Columbus 1492*. Illustrated by the author. unp. $12.95. Viking, 1992. (ISBN 0-670-84051-3) Grade PreK-3. Grades K-3: CG 7

Told from the point of view of "a sailor who needed a job," Smith's humorous picture book builds on this running joke as it details Columbus's first voyage. Delightfully amusing cartoon-style illustrations incorporate authentic details as well as tiny grid maps indicating the position of Columbus's ships at particular points in the voyage. When compared to a foldout map on the book's final page, these map pieces can be used to trace the entire route. A fun way to develop map skills in young readers.

Other Media

***Who Was Christopher Columbus? (Wonders of Learning Kits)* 1 kit containing 30 booklets, 1 audiocassette (English and Spanish), reproducible activity sheets, catalog cards, teacher's guide $41. Natl. Geog., 1992. Grades PreK-2. Grades K-2: CG 7**

Ideal for small group work or social studies centers, this learning kit includes an audiocassette and readalong books about Columbus which may be used separately or together. Written in first person, the text and narration present the explorer's life simply and accurately. Colorful, appealing photographs, paintings, and reproductions illustrate the small booklets. The kit also includes a Spanish translation. A handy teacher's guide contains suggestions for program use, background information, reproducible activity sheets, key points, objectives, and follow-up activities. **ID**

GRADES 4-8

Books

Asimov, Isaac. *Christopher Columbus: Navigator to the New World. (Isaac Asimov's Pioneers of Science and Exploration Series)* 48 p. $13.95. Gareth Stevens, 1991. (ISBN 0-8368-0556-9) Grades 3-5. Grade 3: CG 7. Grades 4 and 5: CG 11 and 12.

Although most attention is devoted to the first voyage, Columbus's early life and later voyages are also treated briefly in this simply written, readable biography. Except for an inaccuracy about Columbus keeping two sets of records about distance he traveled daily, the text is straightforward and true. Its somewhat sensitive portrayal of indigenous peoples and chapters on the controversy over Columbus's accomplishments and his legacy make this book a solid choice for reading and reports. Chronology of Columbus's life, glossary, list of resources on the quincentenary, index.

Brenner, Barbara. *If You Were There in 1492*. Grades 6-12. Grade 6: CG 12. Grades 9-12: CG 5 (World History)

Thoughtful and easy to read, this outstanding book puts Columbus's first voyage, interests, and achievements into the context of daily life in late fifteenth-century Europe, particularly Spain. Brenner's exploration of beliefs and values provides a good sense of the intellectual climate of this period. The text describes what Europeans knew and did not know about geography in 1492 and provides information about various people, places, and events during and after 1492 (such as the Taino people, Queen Isabella, the Alhambra palace, the Spanish Inquisition). By including little known facts about young people's lives during the 1400s (e.g., by 10, girls in Spain were prepared to run a household; by 15, they were married), Brenner's conversational narrative skillfully invites readers to imagine what they might have been doing had they lived during Columbus's time. As in the chapter on education, which reveals that Columbus taught himself Latin in order to read books on navigation, a special segment in each chapter relates its content to the man's life. An outstanding reference for reports and class presentations. Black-and-white prints and engravings, informative notes, index. **MC**

Conrad, Pam. *Pedro's Journal: A Voyage with Christopher Columbus, August 3, 1492-February 14, 1493*. Illustrated by Peter Koeppen. 80 p. Caroline Hse., 1991. (ISBN 1-878093-17-7) (Available from Boyds Mills Pr.) Grades 4-6. Grades 4 and 5: CG 11 and 12. Grade 6: CG 12

Historical fiction based on the ship's boy who ran the *Santa Maria* aground, Conrad's first-person narrative is a faithful reconstruction of Columbus's first voyage to the Americas as described in the journal of young Pedro. Frequent, realistic, black-and-white drawings and sketches illustrate Pedro's account of his adventures. Along with a great deal of accurate, detailed information on the work of a ship's boy, the book contains a convincing depiction of a young boy's hopes and fears. A good mix of history and adventure for enrichment and leisure reading, especially for reluctant readers. **ID**

Dyson, John. *Westward with Columbus. (A Time Quest Book)* Illustrated by Ken Marschall. Photographs by Peter Christopher. 64 p. $15.95. Scholastic Inc., 1991. (ISBN 0-590-43846-8) Grades 5-8. Grade 5: CG 11 and 12. Grade 6: CG 12

While the majority of this interesting book retells the story of Columbus's first voyage through the eyes of an adventuresome 12-year-old ship's boy named Pedro, the text also interweaves the chronicle of two modern seamen (Dyson and Dr. Luis Coin, a Spanish historian) who retraced the route they think Columbus traveled, sailing on a replica of the *Nina* with a crew of Spanish students. Both accounts are written in lively, vivid, and engaging prose which is arranged in magazine-style two-column format. Numerous full- and half-page color photographs, reproductions of fine art and engravings, and original paintings beautifully illustrate the text. Although readers may be confused by the constant shifting back and forth between 1990 and 1492 and by Dyson and Coin's highly speculative theory that Columbus had a secret map to follow, this book may encourage students to think critically about the work of historians and make some comparisons between voyages then and now. Glossary, bibliography.

Foreman, Michael, and Richard Seaver. *The Boy Who Sailed with Columbus.* Illustrated by Michael Foreman. 71 p. $16.95. Arcade Pub. Inc., 1992. Grades 3-6. Grade 3: CG 7. Grades 4 and 5: CG 11 and 12

An imaginative and sensitive work of historical fiction, this outstanding book tells the story of Leif, a 12-year-old orphan chosen by Columbus to be ship's boy on the *Santa Maria*. The lively, well-written account provides much accurate information about the duties of a ship's boy and life at sea as well as a particularly impressive and moving description of the first encounters with the indigenous peoples. Identified as the boy allegedly responsible for running the *Santa Maria* aground, Leif is put ashore at La Navidad, where he is captured by Indians who attack the fort there. First apprentice, then successor to the medicine man known as Two Moons, Leif the boy becomes Morning Star the man and marries Wild Sage of the Secotan people. Exquisite watercolors in muted pastels complement and extend the narrative, but depiction of realistic native lack of dress might be distracting. Fine supplemental reading for providing insight into Indian lifestyles and the richness of Native American cultures before contact with Europeans. A top choice. **MC ID**

Fradin, Dennis Brindell. *The Nina, the Pinta, and the Santa Maria.* 64 p. $11.90. Watts, 1991. (ISBN 0-531-20034-5) Grades 5-8. Grades 5 and 6: CG 12

Fradin's clear, concise text focuses on Columbus's quest for funding, ships, and crew for his first voyage as well as details of the voyage itself. Information about the ships' construction, the cargo they carried, and the navigational aids available add interest to the familiar events. Only one paragraph in the final chapter notes the "unhappy" consequences for Native Americans which resulted from contact with Columbus. However, the text is a good introduction and useful for reports. Full-color photographs and illustrations, glossary, reading list, index.

Humble, Richard. *The Voyages of Columbus. (Exploration Through the Ages Series)* Illustrated by Richard Hook. 32 p. $11.90. Watts, 1991. (ISBN 0-531-14189-6) Grades 5-8. Grade 5: CG 11 and 12. Grade 6: CG 12

A competent, extensively illustrated biography, this concise text presents Columbus's life from his early years in Genoa to his death in Seville 55 years later. Accurate, incorporating current views, and sensitive to multicultural issues, Humble's easy to read narrative contains a balanced assessment of Columbus's legacy. Included among the well-captioned, original drawings illustrating the text are six detailed maps which support and extend the book. Good for reports by upper elementary and reluctant middle school readers. Glossary, time line, index.

Jacobs, Francine. *The Tainos: The People Who Welcomed Columbus.* Illustrated by Patrick Collins. 107 p. $15.95. Putnam, 1992. (ISBN 0-399-22116-6) Grades 5-12. Grade 5: CG 11 and 12. Grade 6: CG 12. Grades 9-12: CG 8 (World Cultures), CG 5 (World History), CG 1 (U.S. History)

Based on findings of modern day archaeologists and documentary accounts by Spanish sailors and conquerors, this vivid portrait of the gentle Tainos and their way of life before and after contact with Columbus is clear, informative, and easy to read. Balanced and sensitive, Jacobs's flowing narrative chronicles the devastating effects of European diseases and harsh treatment by the Spaniards without lecturing or condemning. Highly recommended for the multicultural dimension it adds to the Columbus story, this moving book about the unraveling of the Taino culture and disappearance of its people might also be added to any collection focusing on Native American groups. Charcoal drawings, list of museums with Taino exhibits and information, index. **MC**

Litowinsky, Olga. *The High Voyage: The Final Crossing of Christopher Columbus.* 147p. $14.95. Delacorte, 1991. (ISBN 385-30304-1) Grades 6-12. Grade 6: CG 12. Grades 9-12: CG 5 (World History), CG 1 (U.S. History)

Based on *The Life of the Admiral Christopher Columbus* by Columbus's second son Fernando, this fictionalized chronicle traces the fourth and final voyage to the Americas from the young man's first-person viewpoint. As the novel faithfully follows Fernando's biography, it not surprisingly presents a flattering portrait of Columbus, offering insight into the way Fernando viewed his father. Valuable for its authentic depiction of a voyage most biographies mention only briefly, the competently written narrative includes much detail on shipboard life, from the maggot-ridden biscuits eaten by the crew to the duties of ship's boy. First published in 1977, this reissue lacks current multicultural sensitivity but accurately reflects attitudes of the period and reports harsh treatment of the Indians without comment. An interesting resource for supplemental reading and discussion.

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Lowe, Steve, sel. *The Log of Christopher Columbus*. Illustrated by Robert Sabuda. unp. $14.95. Philomel Bks., 1992. (ISBN 0-399-22139-5) Grades 4-6. Grades 4 and 5: CG 11 and 12. Grade 6: CG 12

An unusual picture book for upper elementary students, these illustrated selections from Columbus's daily log for his first voyage to the Americas capture the man's feelings and fears, and provide a sense of what life aboard ship might have been like. Complementing this chronicle of the period covering the departure from Spain through arrival in the New World are Robert Sabuda's brooding, dramatic, linoleum-cut paintings, which suggest the fear and dread of the unknown that sailors experienced. Faces are sombre and frowning, and frequent use of dark colors creates an ominous, threatening mood. An excellent introduction to an important primary source that can also enrich journal writing activities.

Pelta, Kathy. *Discovering Christopher Columbus: How History Is Invented.* 112 p. $14.95. Lerner Pubns., 1991. (ISBN 0-8225-4899-2) Grades 5-12. Grade 5: CG 11 and 12. Grade 6: CG 12. Grades 9-12: CG 5 (World History), CG 1 (U.S. History)

In addition to providing a reliable outline of Columbus's life, this fascinating, well-researched volume is also an excellent introduction to historiogaphy tracing the changes that have taken place over time in the way we view Columbus and his contributions. As readers see how the glorified, heroic portrait of Columbus has slowly been replaced by a less favorable, more realistic one, they learn a great deal about research skills and the historian's craft. Pelta identifies authors and historians who have helped make and break Columbus's reputation, examining their credentials, biases, and the credibility of their sources. One chapter details preparations for the 1992 quincentenary and all the new scholarly and scientific research generated by it. Numerous black-and-white photographs, woodcuts, reproductions, and historical maps complement Pelta's lively prose. Highly recommended resource for supplemental reading, independent research, or class discussion. A quality choice for middle and secondary schools. Extensive reading list and annotated bibliography, index.

Schlein, Miriam. *I Sailed with Columbus*. Illustrated by Tom Newsom. 136 p. $13.89. HarperCollins, 1991. (ISBN 0-06-022514-9) Grades 5-8. Grade 5: CG 11 and 12. Grade 6: CG 12

Featuring the ship's boy who wrecked the *Santa Maria*, this first-person fictional narrative tells the story of Columbus's first voyage through the eyes of 12-year-old Julio. After Julio joins the ship's crew, Schlein changes the text format from a stream of consciousness reflection to a journal with dated entries. It is Julio's friend Diego who runs the ship aground, and Diego's decision to remain with crew members in the New World (as his punishment) is among the more dramatic moments in the book. Rich in interesting historical and cultural detail, this well-written narrative also reflects sensitivity to the negative impact on Native Americans (as seen in Julio's empathy for five young Indian men taken captive for display in Spain). Accurate, effective supplemental reading for students who have learned the basics of Columbus's first voyage. Glossary, black-and-white drawings and maps. **ID**

Ventura, Piero. *1492: The Year of the New World*. 93 p. $19.95. Putnam, 1992. (ISBN 0-399-22332-0) Grades 5-12. Grade 5: CG 11 and 12. Grade 6: CG 12. Grades 9-12: CG 8 (World Cultures), CG 4 (World Geography), CG 5 (World History), CG 1 (U.S. History)

Characterized by Ventura's abundant and elegant full-color illustrations, this inviting oversize book describes daily life and historical events in Europe and the Americas during 1492. Incorporating the fact-based observations of such imaginative, fictional characters as the maid of honor to a Spanish princess, a young Flemish trader, and a Mayan hunter, Ventura presents multicultural perspectives in a worldwide, country-by-country format which begins with Germany and ends with Japan. Along with finely wrought, charming illustrations augmenting the text, juxtaposed maps of various regions as they were in 1492 and are in 1992 enhance this book. Information about European art and architecture is interwoven into the narrative, and concluding time lines detail important events in Italian art and European history from 1493 to 1564. An excellent resource for demonstrating that the peoples of the Americas had family lives and concerns as diverse as those of Europeans in 1492. Index. **ID MC**

Other Media

***Christopher Columbus: The Man Who Dared*. 2 videocassettes each 20 min. each VHS $250. Coronet/MTI, 1990. Grades 6-12. Grade 6: CG 12. Grades 9-12: CG 5 (World History), CG 1 (U.S. History)**

Part 1: Across the Ocean Sea*; *Part 2: For God and for Gold

Produced by the BBC, these two videos tell the story of Columbus's life through dramatic reenactments. On her return from a trip to England, a young American girl of the 1990s sees a poster of Columbus, which magically comes to life through special effects wizardry as an actor portraying the explorer steps out of the poster to tell her about himself. Although there are a few panoramic views of tropical islands, the films mostly contain closeup shots of the talented ensemble talking to each other (e.g., Columbus to Ferdinand and Isabella, the crew among themselves). Sensitive to the current controversy, the presentation emphasizes that Columbus is searching for gold, and he is not portrayed entirely as a heroic figure. On the inside cover of each cassette case is a minimal guide containing objectives, pre- and post-viewing questions, and vocabulary. Though the British accents may be distracting, these historically accurate videos are a welcome change from the usual filmed biographies.

***Columbus Day*. 1 videocassette 10 min. VHS $69.95. United Learning, 1992. Grades 3-5. Grade 3: CG 7. Grades 4 and 5: CG 11 and 12**

This informative video packs a lot of interesting facts about Columbus Day and the explorer's life into ten minutes. Opening with a fun but misleading live-action sequence featuring culturally

diverse children visiting Chicago's Little Italy and a grandfather building a model of the *Santa Maria*, the film then becomes a series of still photographs (including some fine art reproductions) identifying pre-Columbian explorers and depicting events in Columbus's life. Concluding live-action footage presents a Columbus Day celebration in Columbus, Wisconsin. Never patronizing or cute, this pleasant, serious film offers elementary students a balanced perspective of Columbus's achievements. If teachers fast forward through the opening sequence, this video could also be used with sixth graders.

***Where Do You Think You're Going, Christopher Columbus?* 1 videocassette 35 min. VHS $60. Weston Woods, 1991. Grades 3-5. Grade 3: CG 7. Grades 4 and 5: CG 11 and 12**

This video version of Jean Fritz's book consists primarily of still shots from the book with a few animations. A narrator reads Fritz's lively, almost whimsical story of Columbus's life and voyages. Though fine and entertaining, the film's weakness is its treatment of Indians, mentioning them only as passive set decorations for Columbus's exciting adventures.

GRADES 9-12

Books

Bedini, Silvio, ed. *The Christopher Columbus Encyclopedia.* 2 vols. 787 p. $175. S&S, 1992. (ISBN 0-13-142662-1) Grades 9-12. Grades 9-12: CG 8 (World Cultures), CG 4 (World Geography), CG 5 (World History), CG 1 (U.S. History)

Characterized by more than 350 signed entries by distinguished contributors, this two-volume encyclopedia contains everything teachers and students should ever want to know about Columbus and the Age of Exploration. Alphabetical and cross-referenced, the essays conclude with short bibliographies for additional reading. Included with the expected material on the life and voyages of Columbus are fascinating articles on such topics as agriculture in the Americas and Europe in 1492, possible meanings of Columbus's unusual signature, and underwater archaeology. The encyclopedia presents a balanced treatment of Columbus, appreciating his achievements while noting his shortcomings and documenting the impact of his explorations on the peoples of the Americas. Extensive illustrations, including maps, charts, diagrams, photographs, and reproductions, help make complex topics (e.g., measuring distances at sea, tides and currents, navigational instruments) more understandable. Much more than a standard reference on the explorer's life and times, these accessible volumes suggest a host of ideas for independent or small group reports, essays, and debates. Index. **ID MC**

Finkelstein, Norman H. *The Other 1492: The Jewish Settlement in the New World.* 100p. $4.94 paper. Beech Tree Bks., 1992. (ISBN 0-688-11572-1) Grades 8-12. Grades 9-12: CG 8 (World Cultures), GG 5 (World History), CG 1 (U.S. History)

This sad, fascinating, and different perspective on the events of 1492 recounts the expulsion that year of Spanish Jews following the Spanish Inquisition. Beginning with a look at the contributions of Spanish Jews to Columbus's knowledge of geography and navigation, the book describes their influence on Spanish art, culture, economy, and the funding of Columbus's voyage before their expulsion. After exploring the origins of the Inquisition and its impact on Jewish community life, Finkelstein traces the flight of Spanish Jewry to other parts of Europe (particularly Holland), Brazil, and finally New Amsterdam in the Americas. Readers learn the dynamics of prejudice, intolerance, and persecution as well as interesting facts, such as the first appearance during the Spanish Inquisition of the yellow Star of David worn by Jews in Nazi Europe. Useful for reports, for supplemental reading in world and U.S. History (the colonial period), and for multicultural collections focusing on America's major ethnic groups. Black-and-white reproductions, bibliography, index. **MC**

Fuson, Robert H., trans. *The Log of Christopher Columbus.* 252 p. $29.95. McGraw, 1987. (ISBN 0-87742-951-0) Grades 9-12. Grades 9-12: CG 5 (World History), CG 1 (U.S. History)

Considered to be the most accurate, modern translation of Christopher Columbus's log of his first voyage, this book also contains a variety of essays on related topics, such as the ships and their crews, landfall theories, and Columbus's voyages before 1492. Covering the period from August 1492 to March 1493, the log is annotated with occasional footnotes and divided into five parts: describing his outward voyage; discovery of the Bahamas, Cuba, Hispaniola; and homeward voyage. Numerous illustrations (maps, photographs, drawings, authentic reproductions) add to the overall attractiveness of this scholarly work. A valuable reference for instruction, enrichment, and research. Appendices, bibliography, index.

Josephy, Alvin M., ed. *America in 1492: The World of the Indian Peoples Before the Arrival of Columbus.* 477 p. $35. Knopf, 1992. (ISBN 0-394-56438-3) Grades 9-12. Grades 9-12: CG 9 (World Cultures), CG 5 (World History), CG 1 (U.S. History)

Written by some of the most distinguished historians and anthropologists currently working in the field, this collection of scholarly essays on pre-Columbian Indians examines the lives and cultures of many Native American groups, including the Aztecs, Incas, Tainos, Arawaks, and Makahs. Providing a wealth of otherwise hard-to-find information, the book's two sections focus on Indians living from the Arctic Circle to the tip of South America and on specific topics, such as religious practices, social organization and kinship systems, and the Mayan calendar. In particular, the essay by Vine Deloria, Jr., raises a number of thought-provoking questions about the impact of European contact. Illustrating this challenging text are extensively captioned, black-and-white reproductions of photographs and engravings. An excellent reference for teachers and resource for advanced students. Appendix of Indian language classification, annotated bibliography, index. **MC**

Koning, Hans. *Columbus: His Enterprise: Exploding the Myth.* 141 p. $8.95 paper. Monthly Rev., 1991. (ISBN 0-85345-825-1) Grades 9-12. Grades 9-12: CG 8 (World Cultures), CG 5 (World History), CG 1 (U.S. History)

First published in 1976, this revisionist biography examines and debunks many myths about Columbus and paints a largely unflattering portrait of the discoverer as a man "greedy in large ways and small." A valuable resource for teachers and advanced students interested in examining an alternative view of Columbus, the book presents its research and commentary in a prose which is crisp, clear, somewhat informal, and occasionally humorous/sarcastic and angry/impassioned. Added to the original text is a concluding essay by Portland high school teacher Bill Bigelow on how he teaches his classes about Columbus (condensed from his article in *Rethinking Columbus*, which is reviewed on page 7). Useful for promoting critical thinking skills, raising multicultural sensitivity, and writing reports in world and American history classes. Black-and-white drawings, reproductions, and photographs; bibliography. **MC**

Manley, Deborah, ed. *The Guinness Book of Records 1492: The World Five Hundred Years Ago.* 192 p. $24.95. Facts on File, 1992. (ISBN 0-8160-2772-2) Grades 6-12. Grade 6: CG 12. Grades 9-12: CG 8 (World Cultures), CG 4 (World Geography), CG 5 (World History), CG 1 (U.S. History)

Liberally illustrated with reproductions of period artwork, color photographs of artifacts and locales, and interesting diagrams, this attractive, comprehensive resource in the familiar Guinness format contains a multitude of world records for the year 1492. In addition to the expected category "Exploration and Discovery," concise and accessible entries are sorted into ten other primary divisions, including "Arts and Entertainment," "Sport," and "Science and Technology." Information presented pertains to the 1400s and beyond, making this unique reference useful long after the Columbus Quincentenary. For interdisciplinary units on Columbus and his times, projects and reports, and browsing fun. Bibliography, index. **ID MC**

Meltzer, Milton. *Columbus and the World Around Him.* 192 p. $14.90. Watts, 1990. (ISBN 0-531-10899-6) Grades 9-12. Grades 9-12: CG 5 (World History)

Sensitive, comprehensive, and well written, Meltzer's masterful biography of Columbus is a balanced account which places the man's life and accomplishments within the context of European history, values, and attitudes of the time. All four voyages are chronicled, presented in terms of their impact on Spain, the European imagination, and Native Americans. Meltzer also sensitizes readers to the way historians have portrayed Columbus's actions uncritically. An excellent reference for research and instruction. Black-and-white maps and archival paintings, index. **MC**

West, Delno C., and Jean M. West. *Christopher Columbus: The Great Adventure and How We Know About It.* 136 p. $13.95. Atheneum, 1991. (ISBN 0-689-31433-7) Grades 8-12. Grades 9-12: CG 5 (World History), CG 1 (U.S. History)

This superior biography of Columbus includes numerous boxed features entitled "Getting the Facts," which span a wide range of topics to intrigue readers already familiar with the basics of Columbus's life. Among the fascinating details delineated are "What did Columbus look like?" and "What did the ships carry back to Spain?" Supported and enhanced by extensive black-and-white drawings, photographs, and engravings with long, informative captions, the text is also illustrated by a large number of maps, including a copy of the oldest surviving one showing the areas Columbus explored. Extremely useful for reference, research, and supplemental reading. Chronology of key events in Columbus's life, glossary, bibliography, index.

Wilford, John Noble. *The Mysterious History of Columbus: An Exploration of the Man, the Myth, the Legacy.* 318 p. $24. Knopf, 1991. (ISBN 0-769-40476-7) Grades 9-12. Grades 9-12: CG 5 (World History), CG 1 (U.S. History)

A beautifully written, comprehensive study of Columbus, his chroniclers, and his changing reputation, this scholarly book debunks old myths about the discoverer and provides a thoughtful commentary on the controversies that remain. Most chapters begin with a detailed description of a specific period in Columbus's life followed by a review of how historians over time have interpreted these events. The assessment of the impact of Columbus's discoveries is truthful, balanced, and sensitive, putting the debate about his achievements into a multicultural perspective that even explores how the Spanish justified their treatment of indigenous peoples and how use of Africans as slaves evolved. Employing an exceptional prose style that is both eloquent and elegant, Wilford quotes extensively from other scholars, both American and international. Not a book for the less able students or for the quick, short report, this challenging, thought-provoking volume is a valuable teacher reference for instruction and student resource for discussion and debate. A few black-and-white reproductions and maps, bibliography, index.

Other Media

***The Columbus Controversy: Challenging How History Is Written.* 1 videocassette 23 min. guide VHS $89. Am. Sch. Pubs., 1992. Grades 8-12. Grades 9-12: CG 8 (World Cultures), CG 5 (World History), CG 1 (U.S. History)**

Through interviews with historians William McNeill and John Mohawk, a Seneca Indian, this lively video debates how Columbus should be viewed--either as kindly discoverer or as greedy and ambitious slave trader. Interspersed among the historians' comments are scenes of the lives of the Taino and other Caribbean Indians Columbus encountered, suggesting brutal treatment by the Spaniards and exploring the origins of the African slave trade. Included in the film are a visual history of events leading to FDR's offical declaration of Columbus Day, a high school classroom scene in which a teacher named Bill Bigelow demonstrates how he introduces Columbus, and a concluding summary of Native American influences on American life. A brief guide suggests discussion questions and activities, defines key terms, and contains a bibliography. A stimulating resource for critical thinking and discussion about the current controversy surrounding the 500th anniversary. **MC**

***Loot: The Plundered Heritage*. 1 videocassette 29 min. VHS $250. Coronet/MTI, 1990. Grades 9-12. Grades 9-12: CG 8 (World Cultures), CG 5 (World History), CG 1 (U.S. History)**

Thoughtful and provocative, this video explores the issue of who has a right to own the artifacts of pre-Columbian civilizations (e.g., ceramics, jade, gold jewelry, statues). A narrator skillfully restates the arguments presented in interviews by Mexico's Minister of Culture, archaeologists, art dealers and collectors, and museum curators. A guide on the inside cover of the cassette case provides objectives, vocabulary, and discussion questions. Despite its many interviews in which viewers see only "talking heads," this fast-paced film is an excellent vehicle for extending and enriching classes for average and advanced students in ancient civilizations, American history, and world cultures, and for discussing a controversial multicultural issue affecting established and developing countries. **MC**

***The Pueblo Peoples: "First Contact."* 1 videocassette 26 min. VHS $49.95. PBS Video, 1990. Grades 9-12. Grades 9-12: CG 8 (World Cultures), CG 5 (World History), CG 1 (U.S. History)**

Previously entitled *Surviving Columbus*, this intriguing video produced and filmed by Native Americans explores the impact of post-Columbus contact between gold-seeking Spanish explorers and the Pueblo peoples of New Mexico. Conroy Chino's eloquent narration is interspersed with informative interviews with a variety of knowledgeable Native Americans (an author and historian, an ethnologist and museum curator, an anthropologist, and a Pueblo storyteller). Authentic music and riveting dramatizations enhance the men's descriptions of the Indians' tragic encounters with de Niza in 1539 and with Coronado in 1540. Viewers learn much about the ancient culture of this "people of the earth" as well as the Pueblos' perspective on themselves today. A challenging multicultural resource. **MC**

PROFESSIONAL

Other Media

***Rethinking Columbus*. periodical 95 p. $6 (includes postage) (yearly subscription $10 individual; $25 institution) Rethinking Schools, 1991. (ISBN 0-942961-14-5)**

In this insightful special edition of the magazine *Rethinking Schools*, essays and ideas for teaching students about Columbus's arrival in the Americas provide a "critical, pro-Native perspective." Articles are divided into six sections focusing on introducing the issue, elementary and secondary instruction, contemporary struggles, background/context, and historical documents. A final section contains additional resources and a teaching guide. Poems by Native American children and adults complement the articles, which range from a provocative analysis of Columbus in children's literature to the issue of using Indian names for sports teams and school mascots. This magazine has a distinct bias which is highly critical of the ways in which American schools and textbooks present contacts by Columbus and other Europeans with Native American peoples. Occasionally, authors make controversial statements which stimulate and challenge teachers and their students to view historical events from a multicultural perspective. Teachers at all grade levels will discover a wealth of fresh ideas here for teaching critical thinking skills and a clear statement of the anti-Eurocentric or pro-Indian view of Columbus. **MC**

DIRECTORY

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